**2:18-29 – Thyatira: The Corrupt Church**

**Main: You cannot honor Christ while you tear down His Body**

**2:18: And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write:**

**Background: Very successful trade center with a number of guilds or social trades. If you were involved in the guilds, it was almost impossible to be financially successful in your trade. But, the guilds were involved in profane worship and sexual sin.**

**1. Vision: 2:18 - One who judges and inflicts judgment**

**2. Commendation: 2:19 - Good works, love, service, faith, endurance, and growth**

**3. Condemnation: 2:20-21 - Toleration of sin**

* **Ephesus wouldn’t allow false teachers**
* **It is the responsibility of the leadership in churches to not allow false teaching nor activity that if openly sinful to be welcomed**
* **“That woman” could be “that woman” or “your wife”**
* **“Sexual immorality” and eating “things sacrificed to idols.” Often go together in the idol worship in guilds**
* **It could well be sexual immorality, but the same concept is used when believers got involved in idol worship in the OT (Ex. 34:15-16; Jer. 3:6-13; Ez. 16:32; Hos. 9:1).**
* **The Lord is longsuffering and patient; and for our sakes, He had better be.**
* **It is often good to allow people time to come to grips with their sin, but never to tolerate it.**
* **There’s a difference between someone who is struggling with sin and someone who is indifferent, embracing it, or is defiant about it.**
* **1 Cor. 5 = open, defiant, unrepentant sin**

**4. Warning: 2:22-23 – The One who sees all and deals with sin**

* **“Searches the minds and hearts” Eyes like a flame of fire**
* **“Give to each one” Feet of bronze**
* **Premature death due to sin - 1 Cor. 11:30; Acts 5:1-5; 1 Tim. 1:19-20; Jas. 1:15; 5:19-20**
* **1 Jn. 5:16-17 = “Sin which does not lead directly or immediately to death”; Those who are walking with Christ in fellowship should be moved to pray for sinning Christians**
* **Some die prematurely w/o sin in their lives; but not so with all (Ex. Willie)**
* **Implication is that strong Christian leaders will pray**
* **If we’re convinced the sin will lead to death, don’t have to pray.**
* **What is sin unto death? We’ve all already died, unless still alive**
* **Issue here = immediate death**
* **“According to your works” – Both now and in eternity**
* **Rewards - 2 Cor. 5:10-11 (1 Cor. 3:11-15; 9:24-10:13; Heb. 12:3-17)**

**5. Advice: 2:24-25 - Focus and hold on**

* **God recognizes difficult situations**
* **God wants our hearts**

**6. Promise: 2:26-28 - Rule with Jesus**

* **Works: “hold fast” “overcomes and keeps My works until the end”**
* **Power over the nations = share in Christ’s rule**
* **Quote from Ps. 2**
* **Ruling with Christ a key reward – 2 Tim. 2:12**
* **“Morning Star”: Just before a new day dawns, a bright planet (Venus) is seen in the Eastern sky. Jesus is that Morning Star (Num. 24:17; Rev. 22:16). We already have Him within us (Gal. 2:20). But here, it seems to reference yet another view of Him as the One who represents a new day.**

**2:29 - He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”**

* **If anyone responds…**

**3:1-6 Sardis: A popular church doesn’t mean a spiritual church**

**MAIN: Do we want the approval of men or of God?**

**1. The Vision: 3:1a – One who sees all and knows what’s going on**

**2. Commendation: 3:4 - A few are faithful**

**3. Condemnation: 3:1b - Good reputation, bad reality; “You are dead”**

**“I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead.**

* **“A name” - This is a church that looks good on the outside**
* **“Dead” = Not spiritual**

**4. Advice: 3:2-3a – “Watch…strengthen…remember…hold fast…repent”**

* **“You’ve come up short”**
* **There is still a chance**
* **Don’t forget grace, don’t further deteriorate**
* **Get right with God**

**5 Warning: 3b - Your judgment will come unexpectedly**

* **Language like Matt. 24:42-44**
* **Discipline and loss of reward?**

**6. Promise: 3:4-5 - to those who take the advice –**

* **The clothing:**
  + **“White, for they are worthy”**
  + **The garments and our works - Rev. 3:4-5; 19:8; 16:15; (Also, 1 Jn. 2:28 and Mt. 22:1-14)**
  + **“Walk with Me” - Fellowship and public acknowledgement**
* **“Not blot out his name”**
  + **Emphasis on “name” in 3:4-5**
  + **Litotes = “Ironic understatement in which an affirmative is express by the negative of its contrary**
  + **Examples: Heb. 13:5 “I will never leave you” (1 Cor. 10:5; Rom. 1:16; Acts 20:12; Heb. 12:16; In English, “You won’t be sorry”)**
  + **Many passages teach the eternal security of all Christians – Jn. 10:27-28; Rom. 5:1; 6:35-40)**
  + **“No matter what they do, you will never lose your security in Me”**
* **“I will confess his name before My Father and His holy angels”**
  + **Confession does not deal with eternal life**
  + **Confession involves discipleship Mt. 10:32-33; Lk. 12:8-9; 2 Tim. 2:12**
  + **It is a public acknowledgement Jn. 9:22; 12:41-42; 1 Tim. 6:12**
  + **“No matter what they do to you I guarantee that you will not lose the life you have in Me, but instead you will be honored before God”**

**7. Is anyone listening? 3:7**

